GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2853
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2004
CRISIS IN SILK WEAVERS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has pointed out to the Government the immense unexploited potential for Silk Industry and the export potential of silk in the country specially in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of plan of action if any, drawn out to optimize its production and export, indicating the country-wise exports;

(d) whether the Silk Weaver's Co-operative Societies of Kanchepuram Circle is facing acute crisis due to stock of their cloth product;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for betterment of silk weavers of country especially Tamil Nadu?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. India has a natural advantage in sericulture and it enjoys the distinction of being the only country producing all the four commercially exploited varieties of silk viz. Mulberry, Tasar, Muga and Eri. The golden muga silk is unique of Assam in India. Sericulture is a labour intensive agro based cottage industry providing employment to about 57 lakh persons. The country including Assam has capabilities along the entire value chain from cultivation of the raw material till the production of finished products. The table below indicates the target set for the production and export of silk during the X plan

S.No.	Details	Target for X plan
1.	Production of raw silk (MT)	26450
2.	Export earnings (Rs. in crores)	4000

(c) Several programmes and schemes to optimize domestic production of silk and export have been instituted. The major ones are: -

- Research and Development efforts of Central Silk Board have been stepped up to improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry food plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk;

- Seed Support & Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers & reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds;

- Central assistance is being extended to states through Centrally Sponsored & Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen cocoon & silk testing systems;

- Low cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularized through central assistance to beneficiaries, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc;

- For technology upgradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available inter alia to silk sector.

- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming

models, price linked grading, etc.

- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy & programmes.

Country-wise export of silk goods is enclosed as Annexure.

(d) & (e) There are 23 Silk Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies functioning at Kancheepuram. The annual turnover of Silk Weavers Cooperative Societies for the past 3 years are as follows:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Cost of Production	Cost of Sales
2001-02	6021.10	8510.05
2002-03	5067.61	9696.54
2003-04	6696.61	7853.52

The stock with Silk Weavers Cooperative Societies at Kancheepuram as on 30.11.2004 is to the extent of Rs. 6759.31 lakhs. This indicates that there is regular movement of stock of Handloom products.

(f) The Government of India is implementing a number of Schemes for development of Handloom sector & welfare of Handloom Weavers, such as Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Weavers Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Bunkar Bima Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Integrated Handloom Training Project & Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. An amount of Rs. 3180.32 lakhs & Rs. 1076.21 lakhs have been released to Government of Tamil Nadu in 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto 10.12.2004) respectively under various Schemes. The Government of Tamil Nadu have taken various measures to liquidate the stock held with silk Weavers Cooperative Societies. The Tamil Nadu Government is allowing 20% rebate to handloom goods throughout the year including silk varieties also. Government of India is also allowing 10% Special Rebate Subsidy during certain festival occasions. Special discount of 45% and 55% was also permitted to liquidate the stock over one year and over two years of silk fabrics. 10 district level exhibitions have been conducted during the year 2004-05. Besides Loomworld also conducted two exhibitions.

ANNEXURE

Country-wise exports of silk items is given below:

(Value: in Rs. Crores)

Country	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
USA	680.90	712.73	789.47
GERMANY	159.03	141.34	161.67
UK	166.29	188.12	208.86
HONG KONG	192.60	186.64	133.31
ITALY	114.46	121.22	129.34
UAE	104.29	139.21	241.07
SINGAPORE	71.41	65.96	84.93
FRANCE	97.53	99.69	90.50
SPAIN	64.45	71.85	108.78
SAUDI ARABIA	47.59	67.05	64.69
CANADA	34.65	39.04	NA
JAPAN	31.20	23.83	NA
OTHERS	626.36	461.2	563.90
GRAND TOTAL	2359.56	2294.05	2576.52